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Q6(c)**How does the rise of new 'cults' and 'sects' influence intercaste relations?**

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2026 · Sociology GS 1 · 10 marks · Religion and Society

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Religion and Society: Sociological theories of religion; Types of religious practices: animism, monism, pluralism, sects, cults; Religion in modern society: religion and science, secularization, religious revivalism, fundamentalism.

Facts & figures for this PYQ only.

Numbers move. Confirm the latest Budget, Economic Survey or census round.

M.N. Srinivas (Social Change in Modern India)

Conceptualised Sanskritisation as a process whereby lower castes elevate their status by adopting vegetarianism, teetotalism, and sanskritik rituals.

Max Weber (The Sociology of Religion)

Distinguished between church and sect, highlighting how sects emerge as voluntary associations of the religiously elect, bypassing ascribed status.

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